

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1276

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student loan repayment assistance for speech-language pathologists employed by a public school.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter EE to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER EE. REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
EDUCATION LOANS

Sec. 61.9751. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Public school" means a public preschool or primary or secondary school in this state.

(2) "Speech-language pathologist" means a person licensed as a speech-language pathologist under Chapter 401, Occupations Code.

Sec. 61.9752. REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of student loans for speech-language pathologists who apply and qualify for assistance.

Sec. 61.9753. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance, a speech-language pathologist must:

(1) apply to the board; and

(2) have been employed as a speech-language pathologist for at least one year by, and be currently employed full-time by, a public school at the time the speech-language

1 pathologist applies for the assistance.

2 (b) The board by rule may provide for repayment assistance
3 on a pro rata basis for speech-language pathologists employed
4 part-time by a public school.

5 Sec. 61.9754. LIMITATION. (a) On qualifying for the
6 assistance, a speech-language pathologist may receive repayment
7 assistance grants for each year of employment by a public school,
8 not to exceed five years.

9 (b) The amount of repayment assistance grants that a
10 speech-language pathologist may receive for each year of employment
11 by a public school may not exceed 20 percent of the speech-language
12 pathologist's total principal amount of student loans.

13 Sec. 61.9755. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide
14 repayment assistance for the repayment of any student loan for
15 education at an institution of higher education, including loans
16 for undergraduate education, received by a speech-language
17 pathologist through any lender.

18 (b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for a
19 student loan that is in default at the time of the speech-language
20 pathologist's application.

21 (c) Each state fiscal biennium, the board shall attempt to
22 provide repayment assistance in amounts sufficient to use all the
23 money appropriated to the board for that biennium for the purpose of
24 providing repayment assistance under this subchapter.

25 Sec. 61.9756. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any
26 repayment made under this subchapter in a lump sum payable to the
27 lender and the speech-language pathologist, in accordance with any

1 applicable federal law.

2 (b) A repayment made under this subchapter may be applied
3 only to the principal amount of the loan.

4 Sec. 61.9757. ADVISORY COMMITTEES. The board may appoint
5 advisory committees to assist the board in administering this
6 subchapter.

7 Sec. 61.9758. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS. The board may accept
8 gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this subchapter.

9 Sec. 61.9759. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules
10 necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

11 (b) The board shall distribute a copy of the rules adopted
12 under this section and pertinent information regarding this
13 subchapter to:

- 14 (1) each institution of higher education;
- 15 (2) any appropriate state agency; and
- 16 (3) any appropriate professional association.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.